

REMARKS

The applicant thanks examiner Nghiem for the telephone interview with the applicant's representatives on January 8, 2008. The interview included a discussion of the examiner's rejection under section 112. The applicant indicated that it intended to submit a set of amended claims that would resolve the section 112 rejection and be patentable based on the examiner's prior indication of patentable subject matter based on the thermoplastic bonding component including a filter and covering the ink channel. The amended claims are set forth in this reply.

The following comments of the applicants are preceded by related comments of the examiner in small bold type.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §112

Claims 29-33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41-45, 48, 50-52, 54-58, 60, 61, 63-76, 78-99, 102, 104, and 105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claims 29, 44, 45, 52, 102, and 104, it is unclear how the thermoplastic bonding component being bonded to the surface of piezoelectric element can also include a filter and function as one. Fig. 3 shows the thermoplastic bonding component (90) to be bonded to a surface of a piezoelectric element (34, 34'). However, since the thermoplastic bonding component is bonded to the surface, it is not possible for it to function as a filter since the bonded surface of piezoelectric element would prevent the flow of fluid to flow to the other side (bonded side) of the thermoplastic filter (Fig. 3).

The claims have been amended. Examples of the first thermoplastic bonding component and its relationship to other elements of the apparatus are described in the specification in paragraphs [0020], [0026], and [0027], and figure 4.

All of the dependent claims are patentable for at least similar reasons as those for the claims on which they depend are patentable.

Canceled claims, if any, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Any circumstance in which the applicant has (a) addressed certain comments of the examiner does not mean that the applicant concedes other comments of the examiner, (b) made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims, or (c) amended or canceled a claim

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does not mean that the applicant concedes any of the examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

No fees are believed to be due. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing Attorney's Docket No. 09991-014001.

Date: _____

1/25/08

Respectfully submitted,



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